

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-7, 9-15, and 17-27 were pending. By this amendment claim 23 is canceled without prejudice, claims 24 and 27 are amended, leaving claims 2-7, 9-15, 17-22, and 24-27 pending reconsideration. No new matter has been added to the amended claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The office action indicated that claims 2-7, 9-15, and 17-22 contain allowable subject matter. The office action objected to claims 24-27, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 24 and 27 have been amended into independent claims to include all of the elements of the rejected base claim. Claims 25-26 depend from claim 24. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 2-7, 9-15, 17-22, and 24-27 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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